

Finding Out if You Qualify

Last Updated Tuesday, 09 December 2008

After your interview, the welfare office will send you a notice.

If you do not qualify for benefits, the notice will explain why.

If you do qualify, the notice will let you know the amount of SNAP benefits you will get. It will also tell you how many months you can get benefits before you must reapply.

If you think your application has been wrongly denied or that you have not gotten the correct amount of SNAP benefits, you should tell the office. If they do not agree, you may ask for a fair hearing. For more information about fair hearings, see the section entitled "Your Rights".

Receiving Your SNAP Benefits

If you are eligible, you will be able to access your SNAP benefits no later than 30 days from the date you first applied, unless you qualify for faster service. If you have no, or very little income for the month and you need help right away, you may qualify for SNAP benefits within 7 days.

Nevada issues SNAP to an EBT Account

SNAP benefits are issued to households using an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) account. Households will be given a Nevada EBT Quest Card to use for purchasing allowable food items.

Spending Your SNAP Benefits

You can use SNAP benefits at most stores that sell food. SNAP benefits can only be used for food and for plants and seeds to grow food for your household to eat. The cashier will advise you which items are not allowed.

Sales tax cannot be charged on items bought with SNAP benefits.

SNAP benefits are issued to an EBT account. If you still have food stamp coupons in booklets and your coupons get loose from the booklet cover, keep the cover. Stores cannot accept any food stamp coupons without a booklet cover except for the \$1 kind. If the cashier owes you change from a food stamp coupon purchase, up to 99 cents of it can be in coins. Change in even dollar amounts will be given to you in food stamp coupons.

SNAP benefits cannot be used for:

- Any nonfood item, such as pet foods, soaps, paper products, household supplies, grooming items, toothpaste and cosmetics;
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco;
- Vitamins and medicines;
- Any food that will be eaten in the store;
- Hot foods that are ready to eat; or
- Any food marketed to be heated in the store.

Reporting on Your Household Circumstances

If you or your household members are receiving SNAP benefits only, you must report if your household moves out of the state of Nevada or if your household's gross income (income before any deductions) exceeds 130% of the poverty level. The amount of income used to determine your household's SNAP benefits is provided on your most recent notice of eligibility. These changes must be reported within 10 days from the date of the change.

If you or any household member is receiving TANF or Medicaid benefits you must report all changes in employment status (got/lost a job, promotion, full-time to part-time or part-time to full-time, hourly rate of pay or salaried rate of pay); changes of \$50 or more in unearned income such as Social Security, unemployment, veteran's benefits; changes in expenses or someone moving in or out of your home. These changes must be reported by the fifth of the month following the month the change happened. A form to report changes can be obtained from your local welfare office.

It is important you report required changes, so your household gets the right amount of SNAP benefits. If you get extra benefits because you have not reported the right information, you will have to pay back the value of the extra SNAP benefits.